

German Warships Shell Three English Towns

PROGRESS FOR ALLIES IN WESTERN CAMPAIGN IS CLAIMED BY PARIS

Battles Continue in Poland With Cracow Reported Preparing to Resist Russian Siege.

Although the raid on England overshadowed all other developments in today's news from the European war, there were important occurrences in other quarters. The French official statement says that some further progress has been made by the allies in Belgium, that German attacks in Alsace and the Woivre district had been repulsed, and that British warships have again bombarded German positions on the coast of Belgium.

It is reported at Constantinople that the tribes of northern Albania have declared war on Serbia. Albania adjoins Serbia on the west, and the tribes of the north give allegiance to no king.

MAY EMBROIL OTHER BALKAN STATES.

Their reported entrance into the war was of particular significance, because of the uncertain conditions among the Balkan nations and indications that those not already embroiled in the war may join in it.

King Peter of Serbia has re-entered Belgrade in triumph, and the Serbian general staff states that not a single Austrian remains within the borders.

Premier Salandra of Italy again stated that the rightful position of the country was one of "watchful neutrality," and the position of the government was indorsed by parliament.

KHEDIVE OF EGYPT IN VIENNA.

The Khedive of Egypt is said to have gone to Vienna to confer with Austrian government officials. The khedive has been in Constantinople most of the time since the outbreak of the war, and it has been reported that he would lead an army against the British forces in Egypt.

Battles continue in Poland, and Warsaw reports that the inhabitants of Cracow, the Austrian stronghold in Galicia, are fleeing that city.

INHABITANTS REPORTED FLEEING CRACOW, AUSTRIAN STRONGHOLD

WARSAW, Russian Poland, December 16.—Arrivals here from Cracow report that the civil authorities of the Austrian fortress have gone to Vienna and that the middle class population is fleeing into Hungary.

Groups of workmen and soldiers are said to be busy preparing intrenchments and barricades of all descriptions. Art treasures have been taken to places of safety and the museums and schools have been converted into hospitals.

The newspapers of Cracow have suspended publication and the absence of news is reported to be increasing the alarm of the inhabitants.

Notwithstanding the proximity of Warsaw to the battle front, the news of the city is proceeding as in times of peace. Although the sound of cannonading may be heard at times, Christmas crowds throng the streets. Shops and cafes are decorated gayly, and the holiday spirit has dissipated the gloom of war.

In every rank and class of society there is supreme confidence that the city will not be taken by the Germans.

Austrians Pour Over Passes.

PETROGRAD, December 16.—Austrian columns are pouring over the Dukla passes (Carpathian mountains) into Galicia. Grand Duke Nicholas records this fact without the slightest comment, and the consensus of military opinion here indorses his attitude of complete equanimity.

The Army Messenger publishes a series of communications from the front, as follows:

"On the front of Lowicz and Bliw, German attacks have had no success. Our troops have repulsed the Germans, causing them to suffer great losses."

OFFENSIVE ACTION BY ALLIES GENERAL IN WESTERN THEATER

LONDON, December 16.—The offensive movement of the French and British has become general, and is being pushed with strong forces, particularly in Flanders, the Argonne, the Woivre and Alsace. While the French claim to have been successful at all points, except at Steinbach, in Alsace, the German official report says the allies' attacks have been unsuccessful at several places.

On the whole, however, it would appear that the allies, who now have a superiority in numbers, as well as in artillery, have succeeded in making some progress, and have withstood vigorous counter attacks delivered by the Germans.

The fact that the allies are in possession of Hallebeke, in Flanders, shows that they have made an appreciable advance during the past two days, as last week they were being attacked by the invaders two miles to the west of St. Eloy, which is on the Ypres-Arras railway.

The force which has been checked at Steinbach is the left wing of the army, which for some time has been fighting its way toward Muehlenhausen, and which has effected a considerable part of Alsace of the Germans.

It is evident that while the Germans

are prepared to offer stubborn resistance to attempted advances in the regions mentioned in the official communications, they expect the main attack of the allies to be made in another direction or are themselves preparing for an offensive, or they have gathered considerable forces at Courtrai, from which point they could be quickly transferred either to Flanders or southward across the French frontier.

LOSS OF THE BULWARK NOT DUE TO AN ENEMY

LONDON, December 16.—The official press bureau announces that the sinking of the battleship Bulwark apparently was not due to a hostile act. Investigation has disclosed no evidence of treachery on the part of any person aboard the vessel, or any act by the enemy.

The inquiry showed that the explosion was due to the accidental ignition of the ammunition on board. The British battleship Bulwark was destroyed by explosion on November 26, while lying off Sheerness. About 500 lives were lost.



Scientists have declared that if two sleep in the same bed the vitality of the weaker will be absorbed by the stronger.

GEN. SCOTT ORDERED TO MEXICAN BORDER

Chief of Staff Goes to Naco Tonight to Persuade Leaders to Cease Hostilities.

PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED WITH WARRING CHIEFS

Mission Purely Conciliatory, and It Is Thought His Efforts Will Obtain Compliance With Demands.

Brig. Gen. Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the army, was today ordered by the War Department to proceed to Naco, Ariz., to use his personal influence with Mexican leaders to cease hostilities.

Secretary Garrison explained, "By reason of the personal acquaintance acquired with the different factions while he was stationed on the border Gen. Scott has been sent to Naco. This is done in the hope that he may be able, by reason of the knowledge and acquaintances acquired, to induce the warring factions on the Mexican side of the line to desist from impeding persons and property on our side of the line. Gen. Bliss has pointed out to us the possibility of utilizing Gen. Scott's knowledge and experience in this way."

Gen. Scott leaves Washington this evening, and expects to arrive at Naco Saturday afternoon. Troops which have been ordered to reinforce Gen. Bliss' command at Naco have not yet started for that place, owing to the fact that railroad transportation has only today been obtained, but they are expected to start at once.

It is not planned that Gen. Scott shall relieve or supersede Gen. Bliss of the active command of the American troops at Naco. His mission is purely conciliatory, to begin with, at least, though what will follow if his efforts to secure a compliance by the warring factions with the reasonable demands of the United States government is not doubted.

Friend of Gen. Villa.

The general is a close personal friend of Villa and had frequently, during the time when he was in command on the border, exercised his influence with the Mexican chieftains to cause the withdrawal of Mexican troops from points where friction had arisen.

He is also known to the Carranza general, Benjamin Hill, who is holding Naco against Maytorena's forces. It is recalled that through the exercise of such personal influence Gen. Scott about a year ago prevented an almost certain Indian war in Arizona, which has caused the officials here to feel that it would be prudent to allow him an opportunity again to intervene at Naco to induce the warring factions to cease hostilities at that point or at other points.

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War Officially Reported.

French Statement

PARIS, December 16, 2:55 p.m.—The French war office today gave out an official communication as follows:

"In Belgium the town of Westend, to the northeast of Lombardsyde, has been violently bombarded by the British fleet. The Belgian army has repulsed a counter attack on St. Georges, and occupied the farms on the left bank of the Yser."

"Our troops, who already had gained ground in the direction of Klein Zillebeke, also made progress, but not so perceptible, in the region of St. Eloi."

"In the region of Arras, in the region of the Aisne and in Champagne, there have been artillery engagements, in the course of which we gained distinct advantage at various points."

"In the Argonne there is nothing to report."

"In the Woivre district we have repulsed several German attacks in the forest of Mortmare, and we have retained all the trenches occupied by us on the 13th of December."

"In Alsace we have repulsed an attack to the west of Cerany."

"Serbia—King Peter, accompanied by the crown prince, entered Belgrade at the head of his troops Tuesday, December 15, at 11 o'clock in the morning, between the Drina and the Save. There are in Serbia no more Austro-Hungarian troops. The number of prisoners that the Austro-Hungarians have left in the hands of the Serbians since the beginning of the war is placed at 60,000."

German Statements

BERLIN, December 16, by wireless to London, 3 p.m.—The German official communication, issued by the general army headquarters, says:

"In the western theater the enemy made a new attempt to advance by way of Neuport, supported by an action of their ships at sea. The fire from these ships was entirely without effect. The attack was repulsed and 450 French were taken prisoners."

"On the remainder of the front the capture of a height to the west of Sennheim, occupied by the enemy since the day before yesterday, is the only matter worth mentioning."

"From the East Prussian frontier there is no news."

"In northern Poland our attacking movements are progressing normally. Several strong positions of the enemy have been taken, and about 3,000 prisoners and four machine guns were taken."

"In southern Poland our troops, fighting in unison with our allies, are gaining ground."

A retreat of the German forces which attempted to strike at Warsaw from the north is acknowledged in an official communication given out at army headquarters, under date of December 15. The statement follows:

"The German column, which had advanced from Soldau, East Prussia, by way of Mlawka, in the direction of Ciechanow, has had to reoccupy its old positions, owing to the numerical superiority of the enemy."

"Elsewhere in Poland nothing of material importance has happened. Unfavorable weather is influencing our operations."

"In East Prussia there is nothing new."

"The French yesterday made fruitless attacks at various points. Their attack on our positions southeast of Ypres failed, with heavy losses to the enemy. A hostile attack in the region northeast of Suippes was repulsed, as well as an attack north of Verdun, with heavy losses to the attackers."

"In the neighborhood of Alilly and Apremont, south of St. Mihiel, the French tried four times to storm our positions, but in vain. A renewed hostile advance from the direction of Filly, which is northeast of Toul, failed."

"In the Vosges the battle is still proceeding. We took 300 prisoners, recapturing the village of Steinbach, west of Sennheim."

Austrian Statement

VIENNA, December 15, via London, December 16.—The following official communication was issued here today:

"Our offensive in western Galicia has compelled the enemy to retreat and caused his front in south Poland to waver. Our troops advanced indefatigably from the south, yesterday reached Jaslo and Rajbrot. In this advance and in the last battle we took 31,000 Russian prisoners."

"Today news is at hand that the enemy is retreating along the entire front of Rajbrot, Niepolowice, Wolbrom, Nowo Radomsko and Piotrkow."

"In the Carpathians measures have been taken to meet the enemy's forces advancing in Latocznal."

Russian Statement

PETROGRAD, via London, December 16.—The following official communication has been received from general headquarters at the front:

"In the Mlawka region our action continues, and the success gained by our troops has been maintained."

"On the left bank of the Vistula large forces of the enemy are concentrating. In the area adjacent to the river near flow the presence of several new bodies of the enemy, which have just reached our front, has been disclosed."

"Since the morning of December 14 there has been fierce fighting between Lowicz, the Vistula and the left bank of the Bura, and both sides have been alternately on the offensive and defensive. Our troops, however, have been able to make some progress."

"The fighting in the other regions along the whole stretch of the front has been less intense. A marked weakening of the enemy between Czestochowa and Cracow is reported, and in that region the Germans are completing their movements by railway toward the passes of the Carpathians."

"In western Galicia the battle is developing."

FORTS REPEL CRUISERS' ATTACKS; BRITISH FLOTILLA ENGAGES ENEMY, SINKING TWO SHIPS, BRITISH SAY

English Destroyers Also Reported Damaged in Sea Fight Following Bombardment of Hartlepool, Scarborough, and Whitby, on East Coast of England.

LONDON, December 16, 1:50 p.m.—A German fleet made a sudden dash into the North sea today, shelled Scarborough, Whitby, Hartlepool, English coast towns on the North sea, and engaged certain units of the British fleet.

A German squadron the size of which is not known appeared off Scarborough at an early hour and began to bombard the town. It is apparent that they had no difficulty in dropping shells into the city.

Two cruisers bombarded Whitby and one or more dropped shells into Hartlepool. Panic seized the people, and many of them fled from their homes.

British flotillas have been engaged with the enemy at several points, however, and at noon the situation was described by the admiralty as "developing."

Reports are current in London that two German cruisers have been sunk in the North sea.

TWO GERMAN CRUISERS SUNK IS REPORT.

LONDON, December 16, 3:12 p.m.—The Yorkshire Evening News reports that two German cruisers were sunk in today's engagement and that the British flotilla was damaged.

The Newcastle Evening Chronicle places the number of German cruisers which bombarded Hartlepool at three. It says that these cruisers were attacked almost immediately by four British destroyers.

GERMAN NAVY MOVE IS NOT A SURPRISE

Attack by Warships on British Coast Ports Expected by U. S. Strategists.

The German naval raid on British coast towns excited widespread attention in naval, military and diplomatic circles here, and was the absorbing topic in official and congressional circles. The first feeling was one of surprise that the cordon of British ships which was said to form a ring of assured defense around the British Isles had been suddenly penetrated and serious damage inflicted on the British coast.

It was pointed out that this might put to a serious test the late Rear Admiral Mahan's noted theory of sea power, according to which a strong naval force could hold at bay the attacks of invaders.

It was recalled also that the north-east coast of England, in the immediate vicinity of today's German attack, had been the historic point of England's invasion in the past, the Northmen having entered through the Humber and advanced toward York, where the famous battle of Stamford bridge was fought. All historic Danish and Teutonic invasions had been repulsed by the British, and it was pointed out that the German attack was a bold attempt to repeat the old story.

Against such movements British sea power has been counted on as the chief defense.

Regarded as Strategic Maneuver.

In the best posted naval circles here today's bombardment is regarded as a strategic maneuver which may have far-reaching consequences. The first forecast of strategists is to create a "scare" which will lead to hurried concentration and change of movement of the main British battle fleet, and expose those ships to attack from unexpected quarters.

An examination of the latest naval data shows, this expert says, that the bombardment ports are without dockyards or defenses, and are therefore of no military value for purposes of capture or occupation. For that reason he holds that the chief purpose of the bombardment was strategic—first, to produce a condition of excitement and panic among the English people, and second, to serve as a bait by which the four German cruisers making the attack will at once draw a large force of British ships away from their established lines of defense. The four German cruisers could not in themselves, this expert holds, be a serious menace to the British coast.

Views of Diplomats.

Discussion of the raid among diplomats friendly to the allies led to the expression of opinions that the first direct attack on British soil would in the long run be a piece of naval strategy than an attempt to land troops on British soil.

"In any case," an observer of events said today, "the cost of insurance will now rapidly rise. In London and New York the effect of this will be to materially retard shipping operations between America and Europe. It is, of course, part of Germany's strategy to do something, such as the sortie here, to touch with the sortle here."

(Continued on Thirteenth Page.)

BRITISH OFFICIAL PRESS BUREAU STATEMENT.

LONDON, December 16, 1:44 p.m.—The official press bureau this afternoon made the following announcement with regard to the German attack on the North sea coast of England:

"The fortress commander at West Hartlepool reports that German war vessels engaged that fortress between 8 o'clock and 9 o'clock this morning."

"The enemy was driven off."

"A small German war vessel also opened fire on Scarborough and Whitby."

HARTLEPOOL FOLK STARTLED BY THE DROPPING OF SHELLS

First Overt Act of War Against English Territory Shows Germans Have Much Liberty of Action.

HARTLEPOOL, England, December 16, via London, 12 noon.—The residents of Hartlepool were awakened this morning by heavy gun firing.

A great crowd at once assembled on the beach to learn where the sounds came.

Shells from German ships soon began dropping into the city, whereupon the crowd on the beach rapidly sought shelter. The bombardment of cities on the east coast of England by German cruisers is the first overt act of the war against British territory. The British people have felt that their fleet in the North sea was sufficient to render this possibility very remote.

More Than One Naval Encounter.

The bombardment of Hartlepool and Scarborough would indicate that the Germans have considerable liberty of action. There doubtless have been more than one naval encounter in the North sea, for the British statement refers to engagements at various points.

Dispatches from Germany for as much as a month past have indicated in one way or another that the Germans were making preparations at their sea bases for naval activity. Very little details of what was going on has come out, nevertheless the messages led to the belief that the German ships might soon attempt some maneuver.

The Kiel canal, running from the North sea to the Baltic, makes it possible for Germany to concentrate her entire fleet in either one water or the other. By bringing through the canal such vessels as she may have used since the beginning of the war in the Baltic, Germany could concentrate in the North sea virtually her entire naval strength, exception being made, of course, of her fast cruisers, which since the opening of hostilities have operated in the Pacific ocean and in the southern Atlantic.

These vessels all told do not exceed nine or ten, and a number of them already have succumbed to the vigilance of Germany's enemies.

British Naval Strength Unknown.

The British naval strength in the North sea is and has been an unknown quantity. There is reason to believe, however, that it is formidable. Great Britain has some warships in the Mediterranean, and during the past six weeks it is evident that she sent some of her ships for service in the south Atlantic to pursue German cruisers which have been raiding commerce. Just how many vessels were assigned to this latter duty is not definitely known.

Whatever the disposition of British ships of war outside of British waters may be today, there has been from the beginning reliable evidence that she has concentrated in the North sea a very large proportion of her naval strength.

Many business premises and private homes were wrecked here by the German shells.

Hartlepool a Historic Port.

Hartlepool was the place where the Comte de Paris landed from his fleet in 1171 to assist William the Lion in invading England. From that time the importance of the harbor seems to have been appreciated, and it was the only ancient port of the Palatinates. Here Bishop Pudsey prepared the galleys, fitted with silver and containing a silver throne, seated on which he intended to accompany Richard I to the Crusades.

Hartlepool formerly was a very perfect specimen of a fortified town. It was circled by a wall, strengthened by bastions, a breast wall and parapet, and there were ten towers to defend it. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth the town fell into such decay that it was spoken of as "an ancient, decayed coast town, once a brave, stately and well fortified town, now only a sea land habitation for fishermen." It continued to go down until 1812, when a law was passed for improving the port. It then began to improve until it now is an important port for the exportation of coal and the importation of lumber.

Scarborough was the scene of the landing of the Norseman Harold Godwinson, in 1066, when he began his invasion of North Britain.

SATISFACTION TO ITALY IS GIVEN BY THE PORTE

ROME, December 15.—The negotiations between Turkey and Italy over the removal of G. A. Richardson, the British consul, from the Italian consulate at Hodeida, Arabia, are approaching a satisfactory solution. The Turks have returned Mr. Richardson to the consulate and presented excuses for his removal. They promised to punish those guilty of the breach of diplomatic relations.

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